2:Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

481 toes of each foot; if a tree is branched they will scramble up it almost as quickly as if scaling a ladder, and though when "swarming" a mast or cocoa-nut tree they clasp the trunk in the usual manner with the arms and legs, their movements are more rapid, and they are less easily fatigued, than are the generality of natives of India; in descending also they display the same activity.

•516 3. I have observed a peculiar trick among young men and women, after a lengthened rest or after engaging in some sedentary occupation, of twisting their bodies from side to side in order to stretch the muscles of the back. In doing this they produce a succession of sounds like that caused by cracking the joints of one's fingers.

4. Their favourite position in taking temporary rest after any violent or prolonged exertion is the ordinary Oriental posture between sitting and standing, *i.e.*, squatting on their heels; if very much exhausted they either sit or lie down.

513 5. The usual attitude in sleep (*vide* Plate III, fig. 2) is to lie on one side, preferably the right, with the knees bent so as to allow of the hand of the upper arm being placed between the thighs and the other hand under the head, which is raised on some impromptu pillow, such as a bundle or a roll of sleeping mat.

142 6. Many are able to shut one eye without closing the other, but they do not appear to possess the power of moving the ears or scalp. They can extend one finger without opening the hand. No tricks of sleight of hand are known to or attempted by them.

7. Much use is made of the feet in holding and picking up light objects, and the great toe is in a considerable degree [483] opposable. When a heavy load has to be moved they prefer pushing to dragging it.[1]

48 **Physical Powers and Senses.**—1. Though for a short distance heavier loads are often borne, the maximum of a man's burden is about 40 lbs.; this he will on occasion carry for as much as 15 miles through the jungles between sunrise and sunset, a distance rarely exceeded in one day under any circumstances, or for more than two or three days in succession. This has been particularly remarked when they have been in pursuit of runaway convicts, for, if they fail in coming up with them within the third day, they are wont to take a long rest, unless strong inducements are offered by way of inciting them to further efforts.

[1] They do not understand, or, at least, do not carry into practice, the principle of pushing or dragging a weight *simultaneously*, whether in silence or to the sound of the voice.

4: Guha E-5 (1948-1949)1953 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

[P 4(B)]

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PLATE III.

Onge females living in hut No. 2, Plate 1.

6: Cipriani E-5 (1951-1953)1961 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Onge

caracases of small animals. During the droughts, marine hermit crabs, of which a profusion is found in Little Andaman even far from the sea-shore, often choose to die in fresh-water pools. They are not removed from the pools. A nautilus shell is sometimes used as a drinking vessel ; failing this, the Onge lap up the water like animals, on all fours, directly from the pool. Since they are very fond of dogs, man and dog drink together from the same tiny pool, often holding no more than a few pints of water. Dogs reached Great Andaman as early as 1857 ; they came to Little Andaman much later. Before that time there were no dogs in the Andamanese Archipelago. They soon became the natives' cherished and much appreciated assistants in the hunting of wild pigs. Many unhygienic habits followed the appearance of dogs in the Andamans.

The Onge have no idea of boiling water for the purpose of disinfection ; nevertheless their health does not appear to suffer at all as a result of the polluted water they drink. When, in 1952, I dug a well near the left bank of Dugong Creek on the north-east coast of Little Andaman, I was compelled to fence it in so as to prevent dogs from drinking it and bathing in it.

Dogs lick everything that smells of food, including the cooking pots, and the pots are not washed before use after the dogs have licked them. Swarms of flies of different species and small coleoptera of a brilliant blue colour, one of them 6 mms long, follow the dogs after they have "cleaned" the pots by licking them. They line the inside of the pots with a crawling, living coat, moving restlessly around in search of food. One species of fly, which is of a brilliant; metallic green colour, has a peculiarly disagreeable smell. All the flies lay eggs while feeding, but the eggs are soon devoured by the hovering bluish coleoptera. Thus in a few hours all traces of organic matter disappear from the pots. Subsequent exposure to fire undoubtedly destroys the germs that would otherwise be certainly dangerous to human beings.

The Onge no longer use indigenous pottery for cooking. Its disappearance is recent, as the sherds that litter Little Andaman prove to the investigator. Excavation in modern kitchen-middens leads to the same conclusion. During the last war, quantities of empty petrol drums were washed up on the Andaman shores. They were found in such numbers that the Onge have not yet used them all up : after 1952 I found several of these containers abandoned, untouched, in the jungle. The primitive inhabitants sawed each container in two cylindrical halves, thus transforming them into cooking pots. The result was that within a few years the fragile ancestral pottery of the Onge disappeared altogether. Furthermore, aluminium pots were distributed among the natives after 1952. Probably the indigenous pottery will never again reappear. Each half of a petrol drum is large enough to contain a pig, or a turtle weighing 150 lbs, cut into pieces. Only the flesh of these animals is consumed by the Onge ; the nourishing broth is poured out onto the ground or left in the pot to be lapped up by the dogs. The Onge believe that broth is unhealthy and avoid drinking it.

No matter how prodigious the catch of sardines or other fish, unobtainable at other times of the year, no attempt is made at storing part of it in view of future shortage. The Onge are unacquainted with methods for preserv-

6: Cipriani E-5 (1951-1953)1961 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Onge

LIDIO CIPRIANI, Hygiene and Medical Practices among the Onge (Little Andaman)

Plate 1

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a) Onge communal hut.
b) Painted Onge woman drinking from a nautilus shell.
c) Woman with *bataghé* leaves.
d) Filter going from mouth to mouth.

[p. 489 (A)]

9:Sarkar D-5 (1948) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Jarawa

language could have been learnt by now since they are friendly. There has not been any attempt to communicate with the Jarawa [4] through the medium of the Onge language, which could be tried with the help of loudspeakers installed at suitable places in reply to the buttress beatings of the Jarawa. Prior to this an aerial survey of the Jarawa villages or camps would be necessary. Some food, clothing or other such articles might be air-dropped during this aerial survey. Along with the articles to be air-dropped some pictures showing symbols of friendship, such as the Andamanese and the Onge way of sitting upon one another's laps, might be included. Some pictures showing the Indian manner of greeting one another, for instance that of saluting each other with folded hands, might also be considered.

The local government appears to be very much in favour of capturing the Jarawa alive and then letting them off with presents after kind treatment. Since the capture of the Jarawa from South Andaman is not an easy problem – as may be seen from the Census Reports of the last sixty years – we might try this method of approach with the Jarawa of North Sentinel Island, where such captures appear to be comparatively easier.

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10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Onge
Andamanese

A group of Onges

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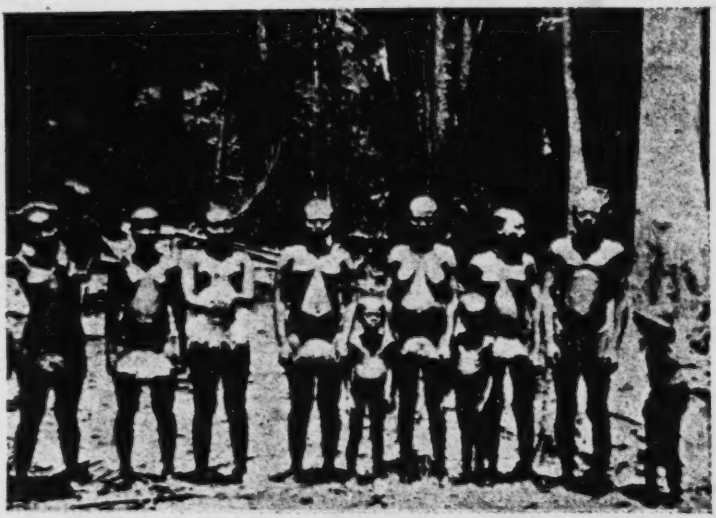

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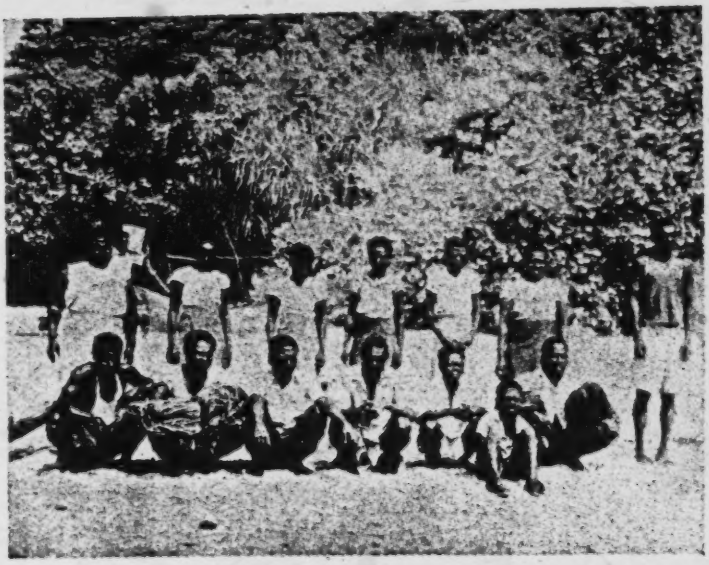

A group of Andamanese (Courtesy A. S. I.)

[facing P. 54]

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Onge

CHAPTER IX
ABORIGINAL POPULATION

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Communal dinner of the Onges (Courtesy A. S. I.)

[facing P. 62]

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Onge

Painted faces of the Onges (Courtesy A.S.I)

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Preparation of a tussel by an Onge Woman (Courtesy A.S.I.)

Construction of the hut by an Onges (Courtesy A.S.I.)

[facing P. 64]

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3 *Above top* A group of Onges resting against the bastion roots of a tree. The man in the centre is smoking a crab-claw pipe
4 *Above* A typical example of tight binding of the body as a cure for disease
2 *Left* Two examples of the geometric patterns which are painted on the face and torso

[facing P. 66, C]

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7 An important feature of the islands is the way in which the forest comes right down to the water's edge

8 In the monsoon season, trees are frequently uprooted in this manner

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[facing P. 66, F]

11: Cipriani E-3 (1961-1965) 1966 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

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9 The bow and arrow is the main weapon used for hunting; in this photograph the archer has the long arrow harpoon used for spearing large fish

10 Fishing in the coral shallows

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[facing P. 66, G]

501

11 *Above* Launching an outrigger canoe
12 *Below* Hunter with a monitor lizard
13 Mother and child

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[facing P. 66, H]

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14 In spite of their size, the Andaman islanders are capable of carrying enormous weights

15 A temporary shelter in the forest

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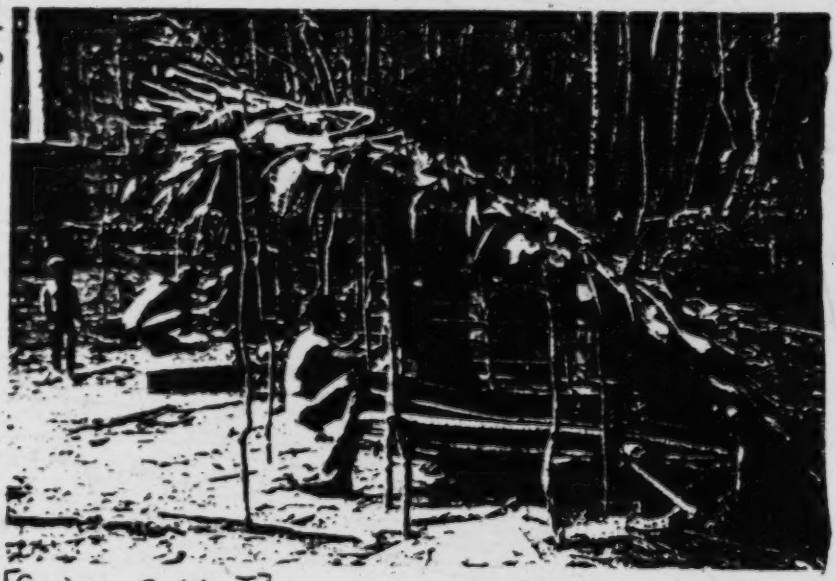

[facing P. 66, J]

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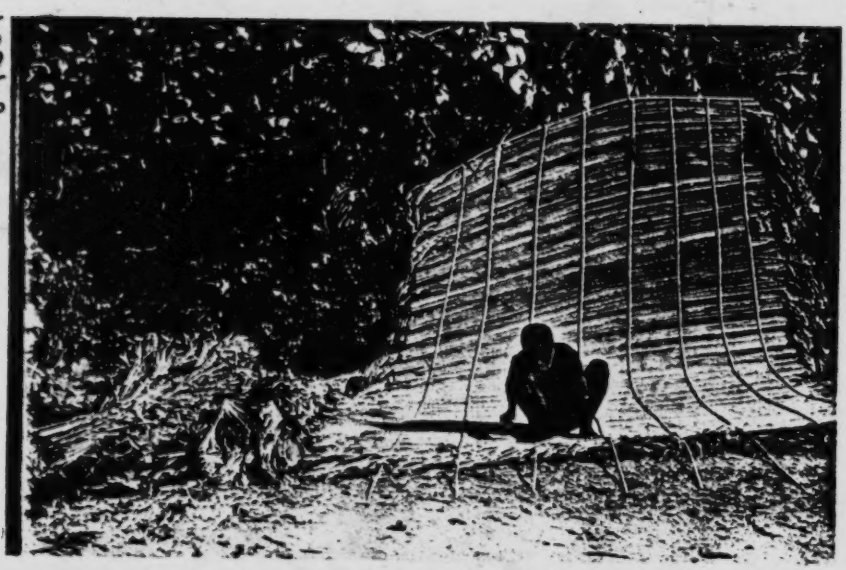

16 Making a roof section from palm fronds for a permanent dwelling

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[764]

17 Completed permanent dwelling, which is also used for burial of the inhabitants

[facing P. 66, K]

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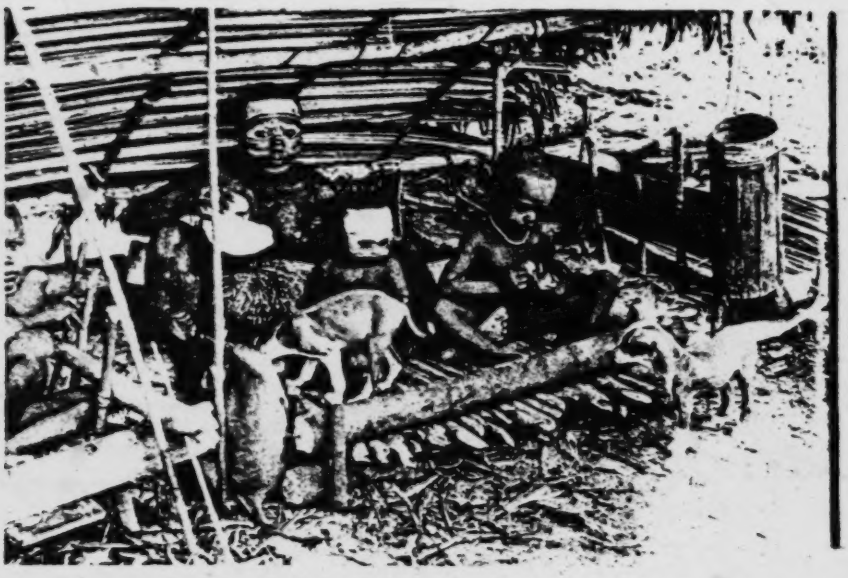

18 A family group with, on the right, the cylindrical cooking-pot, and the inevitable dogs

19 Typical shell collection from a kitchen-midden

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[facing P. 67]